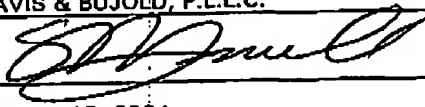
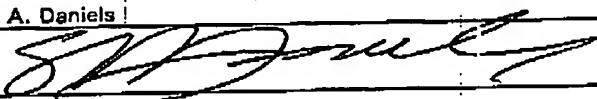


PTO/SB/21 (12-97)

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<b>TRANSMITTAL FORM</b> <i>(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)</i>	Application Number	10/733,786
	Filing Date	December 11, 2003
	First Named Inventor	Kenneth MADDEN
	Group Art Unit	3679
	Examiner Name	Aaron M. DUNWOODY Fax: (703) 872-9306
Total No. of Pages in this Submission: 3	Attorney Docket Number	GEMVAL P18AUS
ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee attached <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Response <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Part/s Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment papers (for an Application) <input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers <input type="checkbox"/> Petition Routing Slip (PTO/SB/69) and Accompanying Petition <input type="checkbox"/> To Convert a Provisional Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation Change of Correspondence Address <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Additional Enclosure(s) (please identify below): <div style="text-align: center;"> <b>RECEIVED</b>  <b>CENTRAL FAX CENTER</b>  <b>OCT 15 2004</b> </div>
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Firm or Individual Name	Scott A. Daniels DAVIS & BUJOLD, P.L.L.C.	
Signature		
Date	October 15, 2004	
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO on October 15, 2004		
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10/15/04

## PATENT APPLICATION

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of  
Serial no.  
Filed  
For  
Group Art Unit  
Examiner  
Docket

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Kenneth MADDEN  
10/733,786  
December 11, 2003  
COUPLING APPARATUS  
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The Commissioner for Patents  
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## RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

This response is being filed in reply to the office action mailed September 22, 2004. In that action, the Examiner has required restriction under 35 U.S.C. 121 between the following groups of claims:

- I. Claims 1-11;
- II. Claim 12

In requiring restriction, the Examiner characterizes the inventions of Groups I and II to be related as "process of making and product made". The Examiner then alleges that "... the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process which does not provide a pipe with an insertion element." In making this statement, the Examiner appears to have ignored the stated limitations in the Group I, claim 1 and Group II, claim 12 which both cover "an insertion element having a radially extending projection for engaging in the annular groove". Furthermore, claim 6, also in Group I, includes substantially the same "insertion element" subject matter specifically recited as "... a male portion comprising an outer surface supporting a first projection and a second projection extending substantially perpendicularly from the outer surface". Thus, in the case of each independent claim in each Group I and II, a pipe with an insertion element must be provided.

In addition, other corresponding claim elements between the claims of Group I and II abound. Claims 1 and 12 both recite "a receiving element defining an axial bore having an annular groove". Similarly, claim 6 recites the directly corresponding feature of a "female portion having an axial bore defined by an inner wall about the main axis, and an annular groove formed in the inner wall". The "retaining ring" as recited in each of claims 1, 6 and 12

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